

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4400
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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LONDON FOR ASST. SECRETARY HARTMAN AND DAVID ANDERSON

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: FORCED ADOPTION OF CHILDREN IN GDR -
APPEAL TO FOUR POWERS

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN PRESS REPORTED ON APRIL 19
THAT PARENTS OF SEVEN CHILDREN, WHO WERE GIVEN TO
GDR RESIDENTS FOR ADOPTION BY EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES
WHEN PARENTS FLED OR WERE EXPELLED FROM GDR, HAVE
WRITTEN TO FOUR POWERS FOR ASSISTANCE IN HAVING
CHILDREN RETURNED TO THEM. ONE PARENT, GABRIELE
YONAN, WHO IS PRESENTLY LIVING IN WEST BERLIN, HAS
WRITTEN TO AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL ABOUT MATTER AND
ENCLOSED COPY OF LETTER SENT ON APRIL 7 TO PRESIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN BERLIN PAPERS ON APRIL 19,
PARENTS OF SEVEN CHILDREN WHO WERE ADOPTED BY GDR
RESIDENTS ARE SEEKING ASSISTANCE OF FOUR POWERS IN
HAVING THEIR CHILDREN RETURNED TO THEM. ALL OF
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PARENTS ARE FORMER EAST GERMAN RESIDENTS WHO WERE
FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN BEHIND WHEN THEY
FLED OR WERE EXPELLED FROM THE GDR. THEIR CHILDREN
SUBSEQUENTLY WERE GIVEN TO GDR FAMILIES FOR ADOPTION.

3. ON APRIL 18, MISSION'S CONSULAR SECTION RECEIVED
A LETTER, IN GERMAN, FROM ONE OF PARENTS, GABRIELE

YONAN, TO WHICH WAS ATTACHED LETTER DATED APRIL 7,
IN ENGLISH, TO PRESIDENT. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION
OF LETTER TO CONSULATE GENERAL AND TEXT OF LETTER
TO PRESIDENT:

BEGIN TRANSLATION: TO THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
WEST BERLIN; FROM: BERLIN, 4/17/77, GABRIELE YONAN, WERNUTHWEG,
5, 1 BERLIN 47, TEL. 604-7699 DEAR MR. CONSUL;
WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE OTHER PARENTS INVOLVED,
I AM SENDING YOU A COPY OF A LETTER THAT WE WROTE
TO THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR COUNTRY, MR. CARTER, IN
WASHINGTON. FROM THE CONTENTS OF THAT LETTER, YOU
WILL SEE THAT IT CONCERNS A VERY SERIOUS AND TRAGIC
MATTER. THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO
USE YOUR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO YOUR PRESIDENT ON
OUR BEHALF AND BRING OUR PROBLEM TO HIS ATTENTION.
WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL
INTERCESSION BY A POLITICAL FIGURE AS INTERESTED
IN HUMAN RIGHTS AS YOUR PRESIDENT, THERE IS NO
POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL AGAIN SEE OUR CHILDREN.
OUR OWN GOVERNMENT UNFORTUNATELY IS TOO WEAK TO DO
ANYTHING FOR US.
FOR YOUR EFFORTS WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL AND REMAIN,
SINCERELY YOURS,
GABRIELE YONAN. END TRANSLATION.

BEGIN TEXT ; TO: MR. CARTER BERLIN, 7TH APRIL 1977

THE PRESIDENT OF USA

AND THE AMERICAN CONGRESS

CONCERNING : VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GDR- KIDNAPPING OF
OUR CHILDREN BY THE STATE
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DEAR MR. PRESIDENT*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN*

YOU ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATE, WHOSE MOST
IMPORTANT CONCERN IS THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
BASIC FREEDOMS NOT ONLY FOR YOUR LAND BUT ALSO FOR THE
OTHER NATIONS.

FOR THAT REASONS WE TURN TO YOU WITH A REQUEST FOR HELP.

WE ARE PARENTS WHOSE YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE BEEN HELD FOR
YEARS AGAINST OUR WILL IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. WE ARE
OURSELVES FORMER GDR-CITIZENS AND HAVE TRIED TO LEAD THIS LAND,
BECAUSE IT COULD NOT GUARANTEE US THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND BASIC FREEDOMS. AS A PUNISHMENT FOR OUR NOT BEING ABLE TO
ACCEPT THE " SOCIALISTIC NORMS" OF THIS SOCIETY, WE
WERE IMPRISONED AND OUR CHILDREN WERE TAKEN AWAY.
THE GDR ACTED LIKE A KIDNAPPER. HAVING BEEN LEFT
BEHIND WITH OUR RELATIVES OR FRIENDS, BECAUSE, EITHER
THE CONDITIONS OF ESCAPE WERE TOO DANGEROUS, OR THE
ESCAPE ATTEMPT DID NOT SUCCEED AND MOST OF US WERE
THEREFORE IMPRISONED, OUR CHILDREN WERE TAKEN AWAY

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GDR.

EVEN FROM PRISON AND IN THE FIRST DAYS OF OUR ARRIVAL
IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, WE, THE RIGHTFUL
PARENTS, HAVE LEFT NOTHING UNTRIED CONCERNING THE
RECOVERY OF OUR CHILDREN. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
PROMISED EACH ONE OF US THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE MATTER
UPON ITSELF USING ALL EXISTING MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL
TO LEAD THE WAY IN BRINGING ABOUT A REUNION WITH
OUR CHILDREN AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. IT DID NOT KEEP
ITS PROMISES*
ALTHOUGH OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY SINCE
1970 INFORMED ABOUT THESE BARBARIC MEASURES OF PUNISH-
MENT FOR PEOPLE OF ANOTHER POLITICAL THOUGHT, IT,
DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT IN 1972 LED TO THE
SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST-EAST-GERMANY-AGREEMENTS,
DID NOT REQUEST THAT DIE(THE) GDR GIVE OVER THESE CHILDREN.
ALSO IT DOES NOT INTEND TO ACT UPON THESE THUAM RIGHTS-
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VIOLATIONS AT THE BELGRAD-FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE,
SO WE ARE FORCED TO TURN TO OTHER FOREIGN
REPRESENTATIONS.
THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRANKFURT/M. HAS
COMPILED A REPRESENTATION OF THESE CASES IN A DOCU-
MENTATION THAT WE HAND OVER TO YOU WITH THIS LETTER.
IT WILL SHOW TO YOU OUR SUFFERINGS.
PLEASE HELP US SO THAT WE MAY AGAIN BE WITH OUR
CHILDREN, FOR WHOM WE HAVE ALREADY WAITED SO MANY
YEARS IN VAIN.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

(PARENTS AND CHILDREN;)

GABRIELE YONAN

FOR ARISTOTELES PUESCHEL, 10 YEARS

SEPARATED SINCE 1969 WERMUTHWEG 5, 1 BERLIN 47

ILSE AND DIETER SCHUETZE FOR SVETLANA SCHUETZE, 10 YEARS SEPARATED
SINCE 1971 BUTTERSTIEG 2, 3101 NIENHAGEN FRIEDLINDE KUPDA

FOR INA (12) AND JAN (4)

SEPARATED SINCE 1973 GRIMMSTR. 45. 2 HAMBURG 55

MARION HAMER

FOR JACQUELINE POHLE, 7 YEARS

SEPARATED SINCE 1974 KARPFANGERSTR 16, 2 HAMBURG 11

BAERBEL AND OTTO GRUEBEL FOR OTA (9) AND JANETTE (8) SEPARATED
SINCE 1973 PECHSTEINSTR. 30, 1 BERLIN 49 END TEXT.

3. ACCORDING TO TAGESSPEIGEL, LETTER HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO
GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ ASKING FOR HIS
ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

4. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY BY DEPARTMENT,
WE PLAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE FRAU YONAN'S LETTER AND STATE

THAT THE TEXTS OF HER LETTERS HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED
TO WASHINGTON.
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LOBBYING, REPATRIATION, REFUGEES, DEPENDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL01034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1aab2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: FORCED ADOPTION OF CHILDREN IN GDR - APPEAL TO FOUR POWERS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GC, US
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aab2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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